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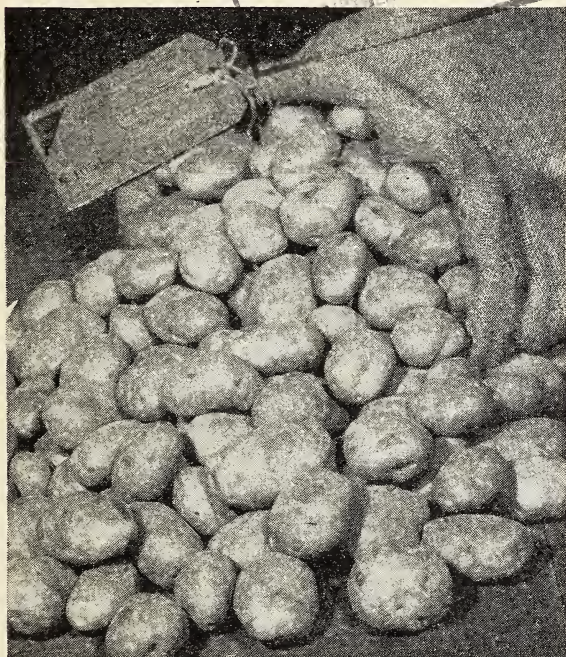
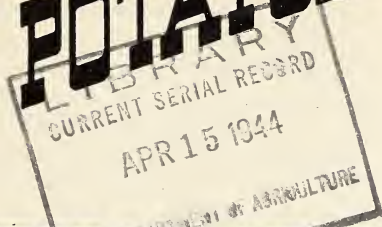
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# GOOD SEED

# POTATOES



AWI-88

FEBRUARY 1944

# give best results

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## America Needs Potatoes

TO HELP supply the needs of our people who are working longer hours in the armed forces, in industry, and in agriculture, and of those in occupied countries who are crying for more to eat, there is need for more food. To provide a backlog of security, American farmers have been asked to produce more potatoes. They have been asked to increase their 1944 acreage to 3,500,000, which is 2 percent more than in 1943, and 25 percent more than in 1942. They have been asked to increase their yields per acre. And instead of 130 pounds of potatoes a year for each person, 140 pounds are needed.

## More Potatoes Through Use of Good Seed

One of the easiest and best ways to obtain more potatoes per acre is through the use of sound, healthy seed potatoes. Probably no other single practice would increase yields more than the general use of the best seed potatoes for planting.

## What Are Good Seed Potatoes?

Good seed potatoes are those grown especially for seed purposes. The best eating potatoes are not necessarily the best for planting.

Good seed potatoes are free, or practically free, from serious seed-borne diseases. The potato is subject to many diseases that lower yields and quality. Most of these troubles are carried over from year to year and from place to place in or on the seed tubers. Some parts of the country are much better for growing seed potatoes than others because of conditions that restrict disease.

Good seed potatoes are also true to name, selected for high yield, and grown under favorable climatic and soil conditions. Further, they are harvested at the right time, handled carefully,

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stored properly, and shipped under the best transportation conditions.

## Certified Seed Potatoes

To provide reliable sources of first-class seed potatoes, 30 States have established systems whereby potatoes may be inspected and given the stamp of approval. Inspection of fields and harvested crops can determine if the potatoes are reasonably free from disease, are true to name and type, and would otherwise make good seed. If they pass inspection they are certified.

Standards for certification vary among States, but in general they are much the same. They all require that fields entered for certification be planted with seed that meets the approval of the certifying agency. Some of them require test samples of seed that the growers will plant. Most States have rules about the distance that certified fields must be from ordinary fields of table-stock potatoes. Some require that the grower maintain a seed plot for the maintenance and improvement of his own seed supply.

At least two field inspections must be made. These provide opportunity for detecting virus diseases, such as leaf roll, mosaic, and spindle tuber, and other diseases that may show in the vine but not in the tuber. They also reveal diseases, such as ring rot and yellow dwarf, that are evident in both vine and tuber.

Field inspection standards are set for the percentages of various diseases that will disqualify. Standards are stricter for the second inspection than for the first. Often growers will find it necessary to pull out (rogue) diseased plants in order to qualify their potatoes.

Bin and shipping inspections of tubers are required. These show whether the potatoes come up to standards for grade, packaging, and labeling.

A tag is attached to each sack of certified seed. Tags used for the best grade are usually blue, or white lettered in blue. They carry the words

"Certified seed potatoes," and the name of the certifying agency.

In addition to the best grade, some States have for certified seed lower grades that for various reasons do not come up to the high standards set for the best grade. These grades are indicated by tags of a color other than that of tags for the best grade and bear appropriate lettering.

Potatoes that pass inspections of the State certification authorities are "seed potatoes." In the long run they can be counted on to give nearly twice the yield of ordinary, everyday table-stock potatoes.

The Office of Price Administration has established basic maximum prices for the 1943 crop of certified seed potatoes at \$1 a hundred pounds above the established ceilings for U. S. No. 1 table-stock potatoes.

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## **IN BUYING SEED POTATOES LOOK FOR THE CERTIFICATION TAG**

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### **War-Approved Seed Potatoes**

A new classification, war-approved seed potatoes, has been set up to meet the war emergency. To date, this class has been established by 21 of the State certification agencies, in conjunction with the Office of Price Administration and the War Food Administration. It is provided to meet the demand for more seed of known quality than can be supplied through the production of certified seed.

War-approved seed potatoes do not take the place of certified seed, as the extent of disease infection or damage permitted is considerably higher than that for certified. The classification has been adopted as a part of the machinery for price control of seed potatoes as applied to the 1943 crop and a premium of 50 cents a hundred pounds over table stock is permitted for these potatoes, which are of better seed quality than so-called selected seed or ordinary table-stock potatoes.



**Requirements.**—War-approved seed potatoes are those grown in compliance with the rules of the certifying agencies of the different States for growing certified seed and so identified by those agencies. All fields for approval are planted with agency-approved seed. At least one field inspection and a final pack inspection are required. Tolerances set up for disease, varietal mixtures, and mechanical injuries are more liberal in many respects than those for certified seed.

**Size.**—The size of tubers may be fixed by agreement between buyers and sellers.

**Tags.**—Containers must be marked or tagged "War-approved seed potatoes" and show the name and address of the grower, or grower's number, and the name of the State certifying agency.

### **"Selected" Seed Potatoes**

Potatoes will be found on the market labeled or tagged "Selected seed potatoes." However, unless they also bear the certified or war-approved label, the potatoes are not officially recognized as good for seed. They may not be any better than ordinary table stock, from which they are sometimes selected.

The Office of Price Administration has not authorized any maximum price increase for "selected seed" over that for common eating potatoes.

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### **USE CERTIFIED SEED FOR BEST RESULTS**

**IF CERTIFIED SEED IS NOT AVAILABLE  
USE WAR-APPROVED SEED POTATOES**